

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph between page 7, line 21 and page 8, line 4 with the following:

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After the historical and new images are aligned, they are compared in step 64 on a point-by-point basis, to obtain a temporal difference image which emphasizes the temporal changes which have occurred. ~~A temporal difference image provides a scalar or reinforcement metric of learning, whereas a simple difference image simply determines whether or not a change has occurred. A temporal difference image is a reinforcement feedback signal indicating a scalar of how good/bad, how much change (vector), or how strongly (acceleration) an action is happening. The scalars may represent, for example, a natural change, or the effectiveness of a treatment.~~ For example, if digitized two dimensional images are considered, the images are preferably first normalized to a common average value, then corresponding pixels are subtracted and the temporal difference values stored in a corresponding position in a temporal difference image. Analogously, if three-dimensional imagery is available (which is greatly preferred), voxels at corresponding locations in the early and later images are subtracted one from the other, and the result stored in a voxel of a temporal difference (volume) image. (A "voxel" is a unit of graphic information that defines a small volume element in three-dimensional space. It is the three-dimensional analog of a "pixel" which defines an area element in two-dimensional space.) Thus, normalized before and after images can be subtractively compared, voxel-by-voxel, to obtain a three-dimensional temporal difference image which represents the temporal differences between the before and after images.
